

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (original): A method for identifying copyrighted images on a network for ensuring legal uses of the copyrighted images, the method comprising:

(a) searching a network for a steganographically embedded image based on predetermined information;

(b) comparing data extracted from a located image to the predetermined information; and

(c) if the extracted data matches the predetermined information, verifying with a database whether the located image has been licensed for on-line uses.

2. (original): A method for identifying copyrighted content on a network for ensuring legal uses of the copyrighted content, the method comprising:

(a) searching a network for steganographically embedded content based on predetermined information;

(b) comparing data extracted from located content to the predetermined information; and

(c) if the extracted data matches the predetermined information, verifying with a database whether the located content has been licensed for on-line uses.

3. (original): A method of monitoring distribution of audio or image content on a computer network, comprising:

from at least one computer, automatically obtaining audio or image content from plural different network sites;

automatically identifying plural of the obtained content having certain digital watermark data embedded therein, and decoding the digital watermark data therefrom;

by reference to said decoded digital watermark data, determining an identifier associated with each of said plural obtained content; and

maintaining information relating to results of the foregoing monitoring.

4. (original): The method of claim 3, wherein the information comprises a network site at which content including a digital watermark identifier is found.

5. (original): The method of claim 3, further comprising alerting proprietors of audio or image content to otherwise unknown distribution of their audio or image properties on the network.

6. (new): A method comprising:

analyzing media content to obtain auxiliary data steganographically embedded therein;

communicating the auxiliary data to a network resource, wherein the network resource comprises usage rights information catalogued therein, and wherein the usage rights information includes usage rights information that is associated with the media content;

receiving the usage rights information that is associated with the media content from the network resource; and

carrying out an action based at least in part on the received usage rights information.

7. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the media content is encrypted.

8. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the network resource comprises a computer in communication with the internet.

9. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the auxiliary data is redundantly embedded in media content.

10. (new): The method of claim 9 wherein the auxiliary data is redundantly embedded in the media content according to a key.

11. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the media content comprises geometric registration information steganographically embedded therein.
12. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the media content comprises at least one of image content, audio content and video content.
13. (new): The method of claim 6 wherein the network resource is remotely located from a processor executing the method recited in claim 6.
14. (new): A computer readable medium including executable instructions stored therein, said instruction comprising instructions to carryout the method of claim 6.
15. (new): A method comprising:
 - decoding a steganographically hidden identifier from a media signal;
 - communicating the decoded identifier to an on-line registry to obtain usage rights information associated with the media signal;
 - receiving the usage right information from the on-line registry;
 - carrying out an action based at least in part on usage rights information.
16. (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the media signal comprises at least one of an image, audio and video.
17. (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the media signal is encrypted.

18. (new): The method of claim 15 wherein the auxiliary data is redundantly embedded in media signal.

19. (new): The method of claim 18 wherein the auxiliary data is redundantly embedded in the media signal according to a key.

20. (new): A computer readable medium including executable instructions stored therein, said instruction comprising instructions to carryout the method of claim 15.